



Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

DPI VISTA Monthly

February 2006

*There are no great things, only small things with great love.
Happy are those.*

-Mother Theresa



Jane Grinde
Project Director

Kari Nelson
Office Associate

Stephanie Hogue
VISTA Leader

Megan O'Connell
DPI VISTA



This month all our VISTAs are at least six months into their terms. Congratulations!

Midyear meetings will be taking place this month, so be prepared to share your experiences thus far as well as adjustments in plans to ensure a successful service year.

Happy Groundhog Day! Wish for an early Spring!



Updated Interview Schedule

March: Morgana Davis and Kristin Danielson

April: David Curtis and Mary Gutierrez

May: Megan O'Connell and Julie McGonigal

June: Karen Collins and Krista Larson

July: Kathryn Zboralski and Lisa Fusco

Sites to See

Great Site

www.afterschool.org/

This site has tons and tons of really wonderful, helpful links. Check this site out.

For Teachers

www.activitiesforkids.com

This site is great for teachers. It has lots of activities and printouts.

Activities & Lessons

www.thirteen.org/edonline/afterschool/activities/index.html

This site contains activities that you can recreate, including lessons on health and how to fight bullying in your school.

School Statistics

www.schoolmatters.com

This site allows you to compare school statistics.

Available Grants

Community Garden Groups Invited to Apply for Fiskars Orange Thumb Grant Program

[Fiskars Garden & Outdoor Living](#) is now accepting applications for its 2006 Project Orange Thumb grants program. The company created Project Orange Thumb to support community garden groups in the U.S. with tools and materials.

Project Orange Thumb recipients will receive grants of up to \$1,500 in Fiskars Garden Tools (retail value), and up to \$800 in gardening-related materials such as plants, seeds, mulch, etc. Recipients will also receive Project Orange Thumb t-shirts for garden members/volunteers.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=128100004

Mattel Children's Foundation Announces Second Year of Domestic Grantmaking Program

[Mattel, Inc.](#) and the [Mattel Children's Foundation](#) have announced the second year of the foundation's Domestic Grantmaking Program.

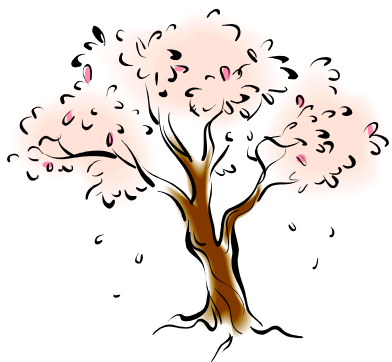
Through this effort, unsolicited applications for funds from organizations working to benefit children in need in the United States are accepted. Organizations with 501(c)(3) public charity status that are able to demonstrate they directly serve children in need may be eligible for grants of \$5,000 up to \$25,000.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=127200060

"Learning in the Arts Grants"

National Endowment for the Arts Learning in the arts for children and Youth Program offers funding for projects that help youth acquire appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of and skills in the arts.

<http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP07/LearningintheArts.html>



Seasonal Events

4 Baraboo - Candlelight Ski/Walk. Hike & cross country ski the gentle 1 mile torch lit trail. Warm yourself by the campfire. Snacks and beverages provided for a nominal fee. Mirror Lake State Park. Event lasts from 6:00-8:00PM. For more information call (608) 254-2333.

4 - 5 Green Bay - Arti Gras. An annual visual & performing arts festival featuring the works of 100 artists. Continuous performing arts, "edible arts," and hands-on projects for kids. Shopko Hall. For more information call (920) 435-2787.

Feb 4 - Apr 30 Oshkosh - Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit. This exhibit employs its collection to tell the compelling story of the world's most famous shipwreck. Ship parts, personal papers, baggage, clothing, tools and other items have been recovered and are now respectfully conserved leading the visitor through the exhibition's portrayal of the brief and tragic journey of the RMS Titanic. Oshkosh Public Museum. For more information call 920-424-4731.

4 Spooner - Jack Frost Fest. Ice fishing contest, winter golf tournament, antique snowmobile show, carriage rides, all-day cartoons, rib & chili contest and games. 122 River St. For more information call (800) 367-3306.

5 Oshkosh - Sweet Sensations. Come and taste wonderful desserts from many area restaurants. Silent auction. Raffle tickets will be available for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. All proceeds will be allocated to various charities in the community. Hilton Garden Inn. Event starts at 11:00AM and ends at 3:00PM. For more information call (920) 688-2661.

10 Neenah - Chocolate Fantasia 2006. Sample champagne, chocolate candies, desserts, tortes, pastries and other delicacies at the 9th annual Chocolate Fantasia fundraiser. Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 9:00PM. For more information call 920-722-287

Books to Check Out

- 🐉 *Homeless Bird* by Gloria Whelan
- 🐉 *Savage Inequalities* by Jonathan Kozol
- 🐉 *Worlds Apart: Why Poverty Persists in Rural America* by Cynthia M. Duncan and Robert Coles
- 🐉 *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey, recommended by Morgana Davis



Recipe of the Month

Spinach Artichoke Dip

- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, 2 turns of the pan
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme leaves or 2 teaspoons dried
- 1/2 small red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup chicken or vegetable stock
- 1/2 cup half-and-half or heavy cream
- 1 can (15 ounces) artichoke hearts in water, drained and coarsely chopped
- 2 boxes, 10 ounces each, chopped spinach, defrosted and squeezed dry in kitchen towel
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Italian 4 cheese blend (provolone, Parmesan, mozzarella and Asiago) available in 10-ounce pouches on the dairy aisle of your market
- Salt and pepper
- 1 round loaf crusty bread: top removed and cubed, bottom hollowed out to use as serving bowl
- 1 loaf multigrain or whole wheat baguette, sliced at bakery/bread counter in market



To a medium saucepot preheated over moderate heat, add about 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, 2 turns of the pan in a slow stream. Add butter to oil. When butter melts, add garlic and onions to the pot. Sprinkle in thyme leaves. Sauté 2 minutes, add chopped red pepper. Sauté mixture 1 more minute. Sprinkle in flour,

stir to coat vegetables. Cook flour 1 minute. Whisk in wine and reduce by half. Whisk in stock and thicken sauce 1 minute. Stir in half-and-half or cream. When sauce returns to a bubble, add artichokes, spinach and cheeses. Keep stirring until cheeses melt and sauce is well combined. Add salt and pepper and adjust seasonings, to your taste.



Money Saving Tip of the Month

🐉 **Think Witch Hazel for:** sore muscles, a non-drying astringent, taking the sting out of insect bites, reducing inflammation, preventing infection in cuts, cutting healing time, deter mosquitoes, soothe sun and windburn and to dry poison ivy blisters. Apparently it was popular in the 19th century as an aftershave as well. That's a lot of products that you can replace!

🐉 **Make your own air freshener** with: 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 tablespoon vinegar and 2 cups of water. After it stops foaming, mix well, and use in a (recycled) spray bottle into the air.

🐉 **Upset stomach?** Try mixing half a glass with 3 tablespoons of vinegar and then add 1 big spoonful of baking soda. Wait for it to fizzle down and then drink it. It should work as well or better than the antacids you pay for.

Action Team Corner

What Can Parents Do?

This monthly column attempts to answer questions and offer ideas for starting and growing a successful Partnership Action Team.



We all know that parents are a child's most influential teachers at home. If the environment is welcoming, parents can also play myriad, diverse roles in enriching a child's learning at school, too.

Many educators search for activities that involve parents in children's learning. The relationships that blossom among parents, teachers, students, and school administrators are often more important than the activities, themselves.

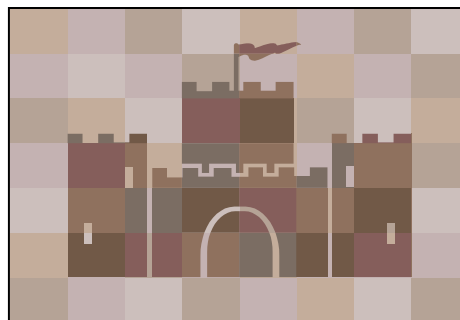
Following, in no particular order, is a brief list of ideas to expand the traditional roles schools often assign parents. Some don't require parents to set foot in the school.

Add your own ideas to this list, using the opportunities your school already offers, or create a "wish list" of new possibilities from parents! Parents can serve as:

- Task force members
- Advisory committee members
- Program evaluators
- Co-trainers for in-services
- Paid program staff
- Mentors for families
- Grant reviewers
- Participants in the needs assessment process
- Reviewers of audiovisual and written materials
- Group facilitators
- At-home or in-school volunteers
- Community advocates

- Focus group participants
- Survey designers, distributors, and takers
- Fund raisers
- Conference presenters and participants
- Members of long-range planning and school improvement efforts
- Planners and workers at school events
- Student tutors
- Editors of school publications
- Room parents and grandparents
- Oral history interviewees
- Teachers of skills, crafts, and stories
- Other: _____

What questions about the Action Team do you have? Call or e-mail **Ruth Anne Landsverk**, partnerships coordinator at DPI (ruthanne.landsverk@dpi.state.wi.us/608-266-9757).



WWW.GOODKNIGHT.COM

The Good Knight Child Empowerment Network, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was started by a group of retired law enforcement and military officers. The group is dedicated to empowering children and adults to become champions, active citizens and protectors through education. Through the use of a multi-cultural knighthood theme, the Program entrusts "Good Knights" with a quest to protect others by preventing crimes and violence against children. They learn to protect themselves, their friends and family through the "ABC's of Safety" and are then asked to spread the word, thereby educating others. This process encourages self-esteem and citizenship. You can order a kit for free (you might have to pay postage) and it is **available in a bilingual kit!**

Interview with Janice and Kelly

Kelly's questions for Janice

Q: These questions are from "Inside the Actor's Studio" on Bravo. I thought I'd mix it up a little bit. What is your favorite word?

A: *Mommy.*

Q: What is your least favorite word?

A: *Can't*

Q: What turns you on creatively, spiritually or emotionally?

A: *Creatively, I like making Ukrainian Easter Eggs. Spiritually, I would have to say listening to Christian music. Emotionally: watching my children play sports.*

Q: What turns you off?

A: *Arrogant people turn me off.*

Q: What is your favorite curse word?

A: *I really hate cursing. Unfortunately, sometimes it happens. But I can't say I have a favorite one.*

Q: What sound or noise do you love?

A: *I love the sound of my children laughing.*

Q: What sound or noise do you hate?

A: *I hate that ear piercing, high-pitch scream of a little one who is not getting their way.*

Q: What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?

A: *I would very much like to be an elementary teacher.*

Q: What profession would you not like to do?

A: *I would not like to be a doctor because my family is so important to me and I would have a very hard time leaving their activities for the call of duty.*

Q: If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?

A: *I believe Heaven does exist. I would like to hear God say, "I have been waiting for you."*



Janice's questions for Kelly

Q: Where were you born and raised?

A: *Madison, Wisconsin.*

Q: Do you come from a large family?

A: *Nope. I have two sisters and a dog.*

Q: How would you describe your personality?

A: *I'm a very blunt person with a heavy dose of sarcasm. I am reflective and compassionate. I have a tendency to be quite dramatic.*

Q: When you were a child, did you enjoy school?

A: I always loved school. My parents are both teachers so they instilled in us a love of learning very early on.

Q: Did you participate in any activities or sports while you were in school? If so, which ones?

A: I played a lot of sports in my youth. I loved basketball. I also played volleyball and softball. My most ambitious venture was when I was on the cross-country team my sophomore year of high school.

Q: Why did you become a VISTA?

A: I strongly believe in service. I wanted to serve in a way that would be a gateway to whatever profession I pursue in life. I wanted to take what I learned from my sociology major in college and get a real world perspective on issues.

Q: Did you have any challenges thus far in your VISTA experience? If so, can you explain?

A: Like most VISTAs, my work is challenging every day. One thing that is difficult is to work for an agency instead of a school and constantly try to create my own projects.

Q: Do you plan on continuing VISTA for another term?

A: Nope.

Q: What do you plan on doing after VISTA?

A: I'm not sure yet. Right now I'm applying for a lot of things. I am most interested in getting some classroom experience, but we'll see what happens.

Q: Describe where you envision yourself in ten years.

A: It's hard for me to envision where I'll be in a year or five, let alone ten. I hope I am still fighting to find what's good and right in the world.

